

CERVICAL DYSPLASIA

Arizona Department of Corrections
Health Service Bureau

Inmate Wellness Program
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Dysplasia can occur at any age from puberty onward. It's usually found in women between the ages of 25 and 35. Risk factors include:

- Early age of first intercourse (younger than 18 years old)
- Early childbearing (less than 16 years old)
- Multiple sexual partners
- Sexually transmitted diseases- especially **human papilloma virus** (genital warts sometimes called HPV), HIV, and genital herpes infections
- Oral contraceptive use

During a gynecological exam, a provider may find that the lining of a woman's cervix (the opening to the womb) is abnormal. This condition is called dysplasia.

Cervical dysplasia can be the first step in the development of cervical cancer. Cervical cancer is the third most common type of cancer.

SYMPTOMS

There are usually no visible symptoms. The health care provider has to do a Pap smear test to find any imperfections on the cervix. Therefore, having Pap smears is crucial for diagnosing this condition.

PREVENTION

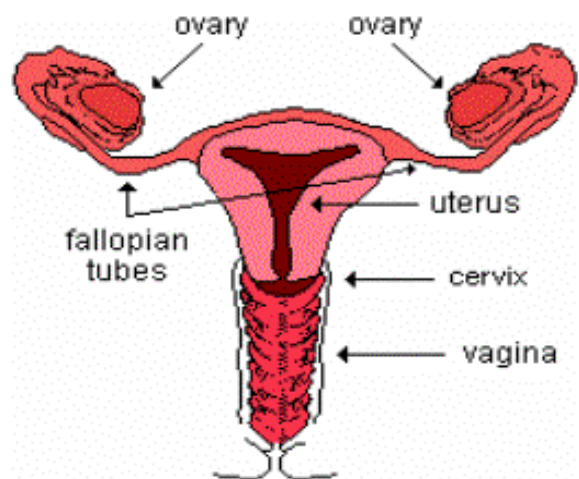
The human papilloma virus (see Information Sheet on Genital Warts), a sexually transmitted infection, is responsible for most, if not all, cases of cervical cancer. This disease can be transmitted by simple skin contact with an infected area (can be

either genital-to-genital or genital-to-hand contact).

Besides abstinence, the only safe protection is to have the warts removed before any intimate contact. Also, other **sexually transmitted diseases** (STDs), such as AIDS, may also be linked to cervical dysplasia. Safer sexual behaviors, including monogamy and condom use all reduce the potential of developing cervical dysplasia.

TREATMENT

You should have a pelvic exam once a year (if possible) because cancer of the cervix can be treated and cured when it is found early. If you've been diagnosed with cervical dysplasia, you and your provider will have to decide on treatment.



This shows the uterus, cervix, and other parts of a woman's reproductive system.